

WHAT THE SOLDIER THINKS

A Monthly Digest of War Department Studies on the Attitudes of American Troops

~~Classified~~



By AL. J. ... Inf. & Ed. Div., A.G.F.

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28 SEPT. '45

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WAR DEPARTMENT

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"GAS!"

Chemical warfare training is vital, enlisted men say, and they indicate preference for realistic drill

Source: Survey of a selected sample of enlisted men, representative of air service troops in a Pacific zone.

The possibility that a desperate enemy will resort to the use of gas in this war cannot be discounted. For this reason instruction in chemical warfare is included in the training programs of all troops.

The enlisted men in this sample are thoroughly sold on the necessity for training in defense against gas attack. Almost nine out of ten consider it "important" or "absolutely necessary."

This receptiveness to chemical warfare training reflects the widespread

QUESTION: "How likely do you think it is that the Japanese will use gas against our troops in this war?"

Percent who say it is...

"VERY" OR "FAIRLY
LIKELY"

64%

"NOT SO LIKELY" OR
"NOT LIKELY AT ALL"

27%

UNDECIDED

9%

QUESTION: "How important do you think it is for your outfit to have training in protection against possible gas attacks?"

Percent who say it is...

(Each symbol equals 10%) •

ABSOLUTELY
NECESSARY



OF "GREAT"
OR "MEDIUM"
IMPORTANCE



OF LITTLE
IMPORTANCE



OF "NO
IMPORTANCE
AT ALL"



view that the Japs may yet use gas against us, about two-thirds of the men rating this as a distinct likelihood.

CONFIDENCE IN TRAINING

If the weapon of gas should be employed against us, the men are confident of their ability to cope with it. The training they have received has paid dividends in the sense that more than 80 percent of soldiers surveyed now feel they know enough about gas warfare to protect themselves in case of attack.

Two types of drill are provided under training directives in the area surveyed: going through the gas chamber once a month and wearing the gas mask for a half-hour per week in the course of normal duty. More than half the troops favored each practice -- six out of ten believed it a "good idea" to require regular wearing of the mask, while about eight out of ten approved going through the gas chamber.

The longer men are stationed overseas the more they are apt to appreciate the kind of training represented by the gas chamber. Although a majority of the men also approve of donning gas masks regularly, sentiment in favor of this method falls off among veterans of long overseas service. Over an extended period of time, some soldiers apparently come to look upon the mask-wearing routine as a mere nuisance. This tendency underlines the need for stimulating the interest of troops in a practice which the Chemical Warfare Service regards as a key feature of its anti-gas program.

Again and again men ask for a closer approach to *"the real thing"* when canvassed for suggestions on improving gas instruction. *"Less lectures and more demonstration,"* they request, *"use the gas chamber more...make it interesting."* Other ideas proposed by the men are to get better instructors and more training films and to teach more about gas first aid. Typical comments:

MORE REALISM:

"Concentrate on speed in putting the

mask on while running and while carrying awkward objects and with other handicaps."

"The Base as a whole should have more alert gas drills."

"Why not use gas masks more often with some different kinds of gas such as vomiting gas to make a fellow know how important his mask is."

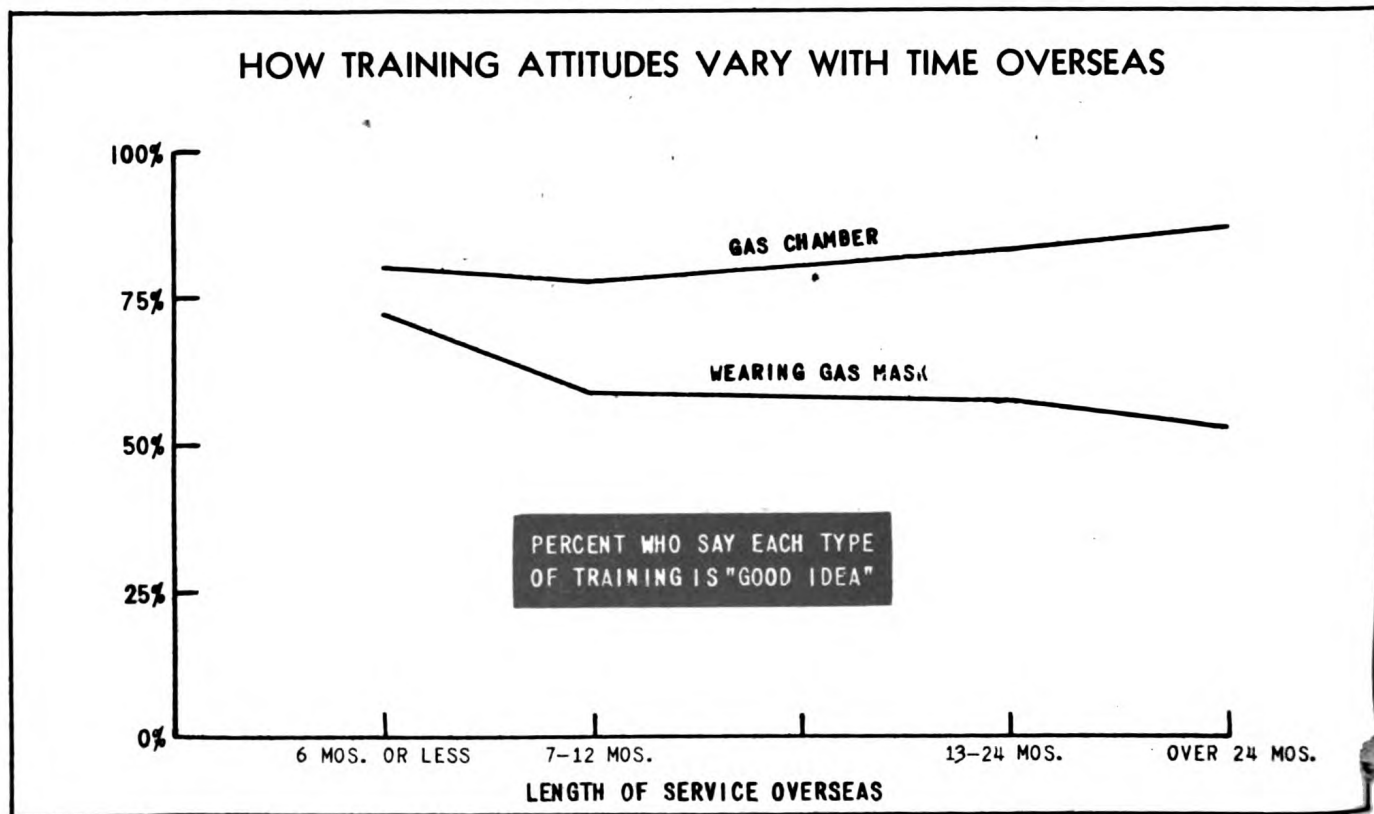
"I'd like to become better acquainted with the different odors of different gases. Suggest more frequent use of field work along this line."

BETTER INSTRUCTORS:

"Gas training has become boringly repetitious. Either it should be capably given or it should be forgotten."

"Provide instructors who can teach, who can explain with clarity and conciseness."

"If training is necessary, then do it in a complete manner, and not every now and then have some Joe who knows very little about it read it out of a manual."



INTEREST IN ARMY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Officers and enlisted men check the courses they prefer for post VE-Day study

Source: A cross-section survey of officers and enlisted men in Ground and Service Force units in an active theater.

On some future day, when the European phase of the war is ended, a certain proportion of troops will find themselves sweating out shipment back to the States.

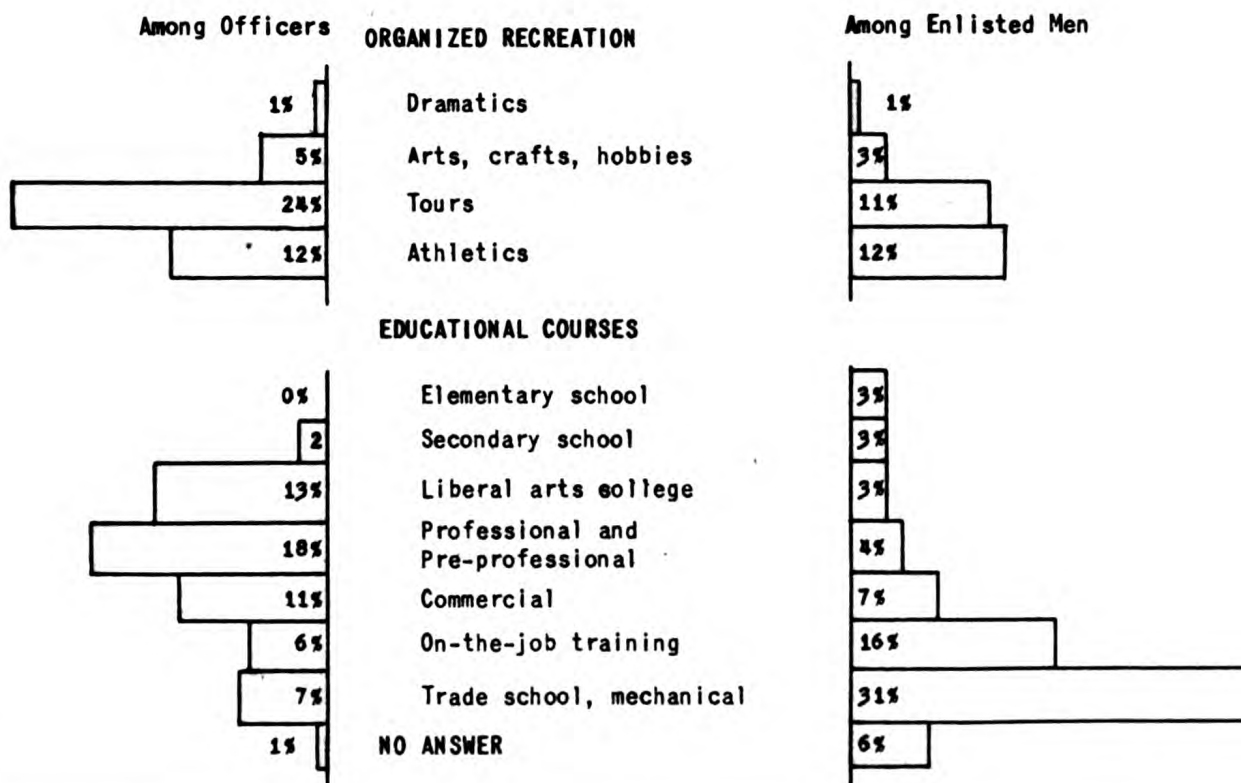
To make this waiting period as interesting and profitable as possible the Army has planned a broad program of educational and recreational activities.

In this survey commissioned and enlisted personnel checked the type of

program in which they would most like to participate. As the chart below indicates, the leading choice of enlisted men -- named by almost half of them -- is trade and mechanical courses, either in the form of classroom instruction or on-the-job training.

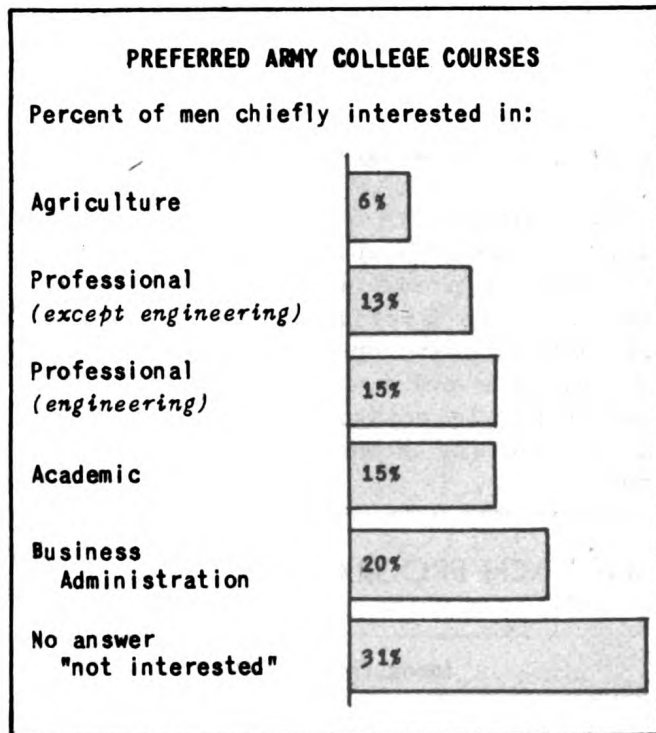
The primary interest of officers appears to be in courses preparing for business or professions, three out of ten officers listing these subjects. Substantial preference is also noted for liberal arts college courses. The most popular single activity with commissioned personnel, however, is organized tours.

COMPARATIVE POPULARITY OF EACH PROGRAM



COLLEGE PROGRAM LEADS

Analysis of the answers of men who are high school graduates shows that roughly seven in ten say they would want to attend courses on the college level. The relative degree of interest in various subjects is charted below:



In their comments the men set two limitations on participation in the schooling program: one, that enrollment shall in no way delay their return home and two, that they shall receive credit for work completed.

AVAILABILITY OF TEACHING PERSONNEL

To help set up the post-VE Day educational program, the War Department will supply a limited number of qualified personnel to theaters. But it is evident that as far as the battalion level school is concerned, instructors will mainly have to come from within the units.

Can an adequate staff of teachers be found among personnel of the average battalion? To throw some light on this problem, intensive surveys were made among two organizations in an active theater: an ordnance and an infantry battalion. As these outfits are not necessarily typical, the findings presented here cannot be generalized -- they are merely a case study of what can be done in the way of locating teachers for a unit school.

TEACHER-STUDENT RATIO

This report indicates that each of the two battalions, among its officers and enlisted men, has instructors who could teach every one of the courses in the Army Education Program. But the number of instructors versed in a specific subject is not always in proportion to the number of men who wish to study that particular subject. This focuses attention on the problem of distributing the available supply of teachers so as to assure a balanced curriculum in each unit school.

The ratio of potential teachers to the total number of men in the battalions studied was as follows:



Ordnance: one teacher for every five men.

Infantry: one teacher for every 26 men.

The information on Forms 20 and 66-1 is incomplete as a basis for combing out potential talent. Detailed questionnaires proved to be the most effective method of getting the data required.

Here are the factors to look for, this study brings out, in sizing up the teaching qualifications of military personnel:

1. Pre-induction teaching experience.
2. Educational background.
3. Civilian occupation in a supervisory capacity.
4. Teaching experience in Army.

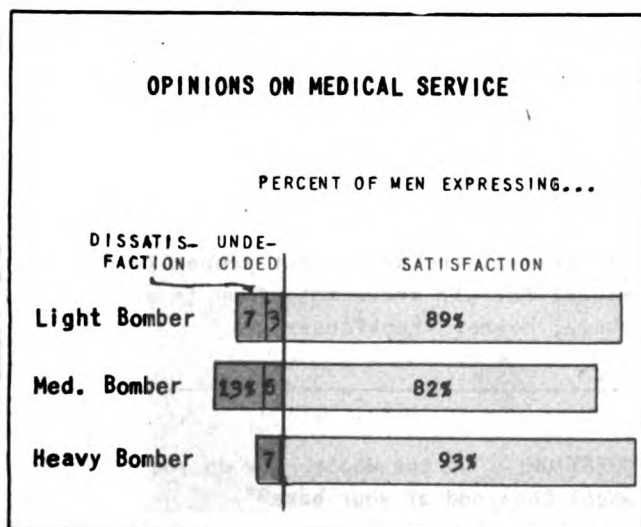
BOMBER CREWS AT THE BASE

Attitudes of flying personnel toward some aspects of on-the-ground routine

Source: Survey of combat crews in light, medium and heavy bomber groups in an active overseas area.

In the intervals between missions, the men who fly and fight in our bomber planes are refreshed, mentally and physically, to take the air again in top fighting condition.

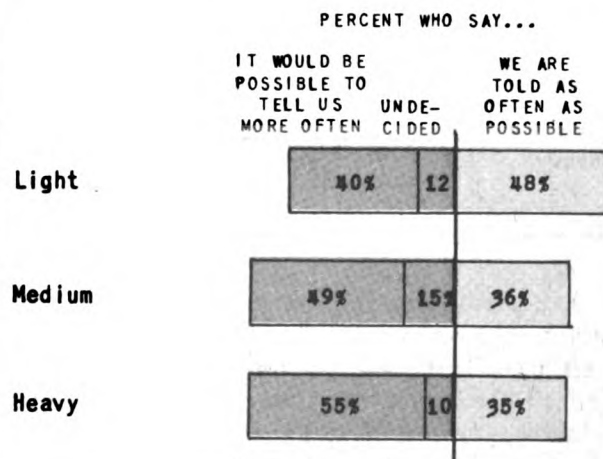
One aspect of the base routine which meets widespread approval among bomber crews is the medical service. Most men in light, medium and heavy squadrons agree that the care they receive is as good as can be expected. Only about one man in ten feels that there is a definite need for betterment.



Bomber crews are more critical, however, of certain other practices, such as the lack of advance notice on "stand-downs." Less than two out of five men can say that they are usually told the day before when they are not going up on a mission. It is realized that military considerations or unpredictable weather make it impossible to announce stand-downs in advance. But fully half the

medium and heavy bomber men believe that even under current conditions it would be possible to give prior notice more often, thus helping to relieve nervous tension. Opinions of light bomber crews on this question are somewhat more favorable.

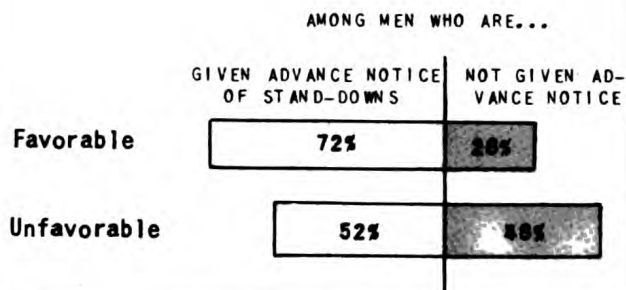
QUESTION: "In your opinion, do you feel it would be possible to tell you in advance (about stand-downs) more often?"



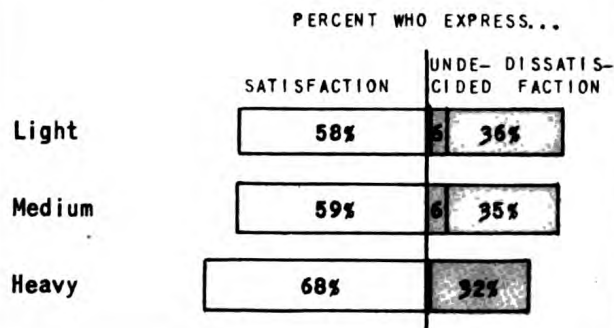
Attitudes toward the policy on stand-downs appear to influence opinion on other issues as well. Men who claim they are rarely told of stand-downs before-hand are more likely than other men to feel that headquarters has little understanding of their problems. The reactions of light bomber men are charted on the next page as an illustration.

While most of the bomber men are fairly well satisfied with the recreational facilities available to them, fully one-third of them call for improvement in this connection, saying it would "help a lot."

ATTITUDE OF LIGHT BOMBER MEN TOWARD HIGHER HEADQUARTERS



VIEWS ON RECREATIONAL FACILITIES



A common source of discontent among bomber crews is the mess. Findings on this problem cannot be dismissed as a mere reflection of the classic GI gripe on chow, as both officers and enlisted men were included in the survey. Furthermore, marked differences were noted between various installations, more than seven out of ten light and medium bomber men expressing dissatisfaction with food as compared to less than half the men in the heavy wings.

A large proportion of the men took the trouble to write in comments on the mess situation. Lack of a separate combat mess was stressed by all three types of bomber personnel, many men feeling that flying crews require special diet.

Some men tell of coming in from a long, hazardous mission to sit down before a meal of cold leftovers. The difficulty of adjusting mess service to flying sche-

dules accounts for part of the dissatisfaction with food.

Here are a few of the more critical comments:

"We have no combat mess at this station for EM. The chow is very inferior. Beans and cabbage the night before a mission equals a belly-ache and low morale."

"Have a full hot meal -- not scraps left from the fellows that did not fly and ate two hours before."

"Missions are always flown during mealtimes and when we get back the meals are poor."

"Our mess sergeant thinks he is doing us a damn favor when we come late from a mission to eat -- also a flying man should be able to get a sandwich and a cup of coffee anytime of day."

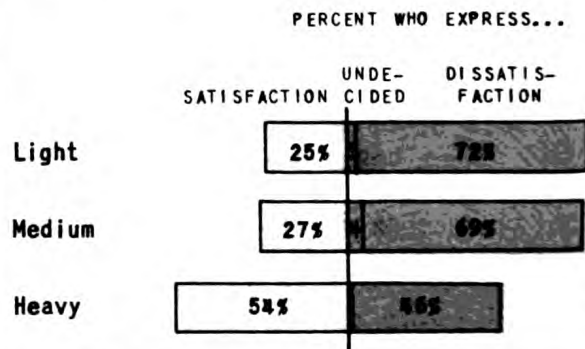
"Personally the missions would be about half as hard if I didn't have beans, weiners, greasy pork and greasy potatoes."

"Diet is wrong -- too much greasy food."

"Ingredients are as good as can be expected but the preparation and serving are a disgrace. This mess hall business if improved would make this base a whole lot better all the way around."

"After all the talk about proper food (non-gaseous) for air crews this food is a laugh -- cabbage, beans, frankfurters."

QUESTION: "On the whole, how do you feel about the food at your base?"



FIRST AID AT THE FRONT

"Medics" and wounded veterans give their views on battlefield treatment of casualties

Source: Questionnaire interviews with wounded combat veterans in Field, Evacuation and General Hospitals overseas. Verbal interviews with medical personnel.

A bright page in the story of World War II is the record written by the Surgeon General's Office: 97% of wounded American soldiers still live -- many to fight again.

A cornerstone of the Army's medical program is the first aid training received by all troops. Have men absorbed the lessons of first aid well enough to apply them on the battlefield? More than nine out of ten wounded veterans in this sample say they knew what emergency treatment to give themselves.

minister first aid to themselves after being hit. Frequently they were able to make their way back to an aid station or, more often, the medics were right on the scene.

The prompt appearance of the medics is one reason why their work wins almost unanimous praise among men who have been wounded in battle. About nine out of ten of these veterans rate front-line medical service as "very good" and only one in 30 considers it "poor" or merely "fair." The men freely voiced their admiration in comments such as these:

"Can't kick on medical treatment anywhere. They're really doing a wonderful job."

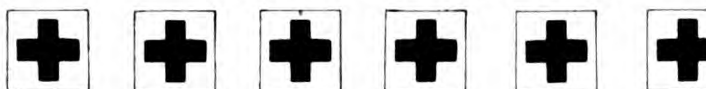
KNOWLEDGE OF FIRST AID

QUESTION: "when you yourself were wounded or injured, did you know what to do in the way of first aid?"

Percent who answer...

EACH SYMBOL = TEN PERCENT

"Yes, very well"



"Yes, fairly well"



"No, not very well"



Mastery of first aid also enabled many soldiers to help a wounded buddy, one man out of four in the sample having occasion to make use of his knowledge in his way.

In actual practice, only one-fifth of the hospitalized men say they had to ad-

"The medical man is on the ball. He is always up in a hurry. Never seen one take more than ten minutes."

"Treatment has been OK. They're busy as hell up at the evacs....doing a wonderful job."

Medical personnel behind the lines come in for almost an equal share of approval. Asked for their opinion of the care received after leaving the front, three-quarters of the men say "very good," and about another one-fifth say "good."

The most common suggestions on the medical setup offered by men in hospitals are to increase the number of aid men and to replace losses among them more quickly, to put hospitals closer to the front and to give wounded men more individual attention.

ADVICE FROM THE FRONT

Front line aid men have some practical advice to give on the medical aid in combat. When medics take unnecessary risks, they feel, it is both foolhardy and a waste of manpower. As one corporal puts it:

"New company officers ought to use a lot of discretion in the way they send out aid men under fire -- if they are knocked out the outfit has lost its main medical help. If a man is hit, he's hit and it may be better to leave him there for a while than to send the aid men on

a suicide job. I've seen it done when mortars were pounding the area and every foot was covered with MG fire."

A rifle company aidman agrees: "We've had lots of guys shot trying to get someone out of fire when he's only shot in the arm -- they holler for medics and expect you to come through to them when they could get out themselves."

REPORTING CASUALTIES

The medics' job is also made harder when casualties are inaccurately reported and when locations are not indicated.

"One man was injured at the head of a column and they kept yelling 'medics' all the way down the column. It went the full length of the battalion and five aid men went all the way up," a battalion surgeon recalls. "Too many walking cases," an aid man states, "are reported as litter cases."

Another subject on which troops appear to need instruction is the proper use of sulfa pills. Fully a third of the wounded men did not take these pills before reaching an aid station, stating they were not necessary, were not handy or that no water was available, etc.

OPINIONS ON MEDICS

QUESTION: "How would you rate the job being done by the medics at the front?"

Percent answering...

EACH SYMBOL = TEN PERCENT

"very good"



... "good"



"fair" or "poor"

INFLUENCING ATTITUDES WITH INFORMATION

The more knowledge men have, the more favorable their outlook on our cause and our Allies

Source: Study of a sample of enlisted men comprising a cross-section of 12 infantry and armored divisions.

Through a continuing program of information and orientation, the Army has sought to make our military force the best-informed in the world. Never before have American soldiers gone into battle with so much knowledge of the events which have shaped the world around them.

Knowing the facts about the war and about the nations who are fighting with us and against us, the Army feels, will develop in our troops the desired attitude toward this global conflict.

Has this theory worked out -- in the sense that men with the most information actually have the healthiest outlook on the war?

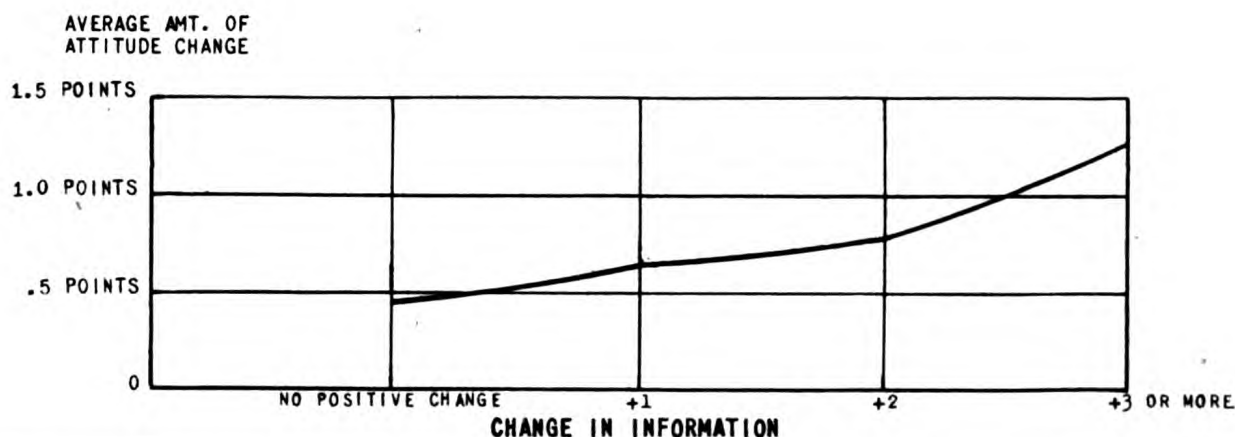
To test this contention, a representative group of enlisted men were given a brief quiz on current affairs. The men were then divided into four groups

of equal size, based on the scores made. An attitude analysis of each group reveals that the top fourth of the men in point of information held the most favorable views on our Allies and on our cause. The next fourth rated second on an orientation attitude scale, while men whose scores indicated the least information had the least desirable outlook.

Since information and attitudes are thus related, does it follow that raising the level of men's knowledge will bring an improvement in attitude? To answer this, the same questionnaire was administered at a later period after the men had learned a varying number of facts about the subjects involved. Results clearly demonstrate that those who gained the most information during the period covered also displayed the most improvement in attitude.

Data of this type re-emphasize the importance of supplying troops with the basic facts about the men and issues which are moulding the war and the peace.

HOW ATTITUDES IMPROVE WITH INCREASED INFORMATION



HOW TO STAY ALIVE IN COMBAT

Hard-hitting advice for "green" men from veterans who have been in action against the Germans

Source: A series of interviews overseas with wounded men in hospitals and other enlisted veterans of the fighting on a European front.

The veteran soldiers interviewed in this study have met the enemy in combat. They have lived to tell the tale here for buddies who have not yet been through their baptism of fire. Most of these men were interviewed on hospital beds, the scars of battle still fresh. They have taken the worst that a fanatical foe has been able to dish out....they have learned *"what every soldier should know"* in a hard school. Our fighting men have paid in dead and wounded for the mistakes pointed out below.

Here is straight-from-the-shoulder talk from these veterans -- for the men, and for the leaders of the men, who will take up where they left off.

DON'T FREEZE,

This warning is sounded again and again by

KEEP MOVING:

combat veterans who cite numerous instances of a fatal tendency to freeze under fire, thereby providing the enemy with a stationary target. The best defense against artillery and mortar attack, say veterans, often is to move *forward* out of the zone of impact. In their own words:

"One of the worst things the men can do which causes casualties is to freeze. Usually it's the new men, but sometimes the old men do too. The shells start falling and they just dig their nose in the dirt and don't even look up. A German with a machine pistol can spray the whole bunch of them." (Sgt.)

"I was pinned down by MG and they let mortars go. As soon as you're able to move, get out

from under fire. If they ever stop you they lay everything they got on you. If men start advancing they should never stop because then they lay all their mortar and artillery fire on." (Pfc.)

"Don't ever stop in the field. They'll get you every time. A man's got a far better chance if he moves on. While I was still there, not running, he was hitting them all around us. The boy next to me got hit and the S/Sgt. on the other side. Keep moving -- they are just waiting for you to stop to get you." (Pfc.)

"Don't let 'em get you pinned down. When they do they signal the 88's. Keep moving. Don't let 'em keep you down. If you hear the old machine pistol get going, the old 88 is coming in. They signal with the machine pistol." (S/Sgt.)

TAKE COVER:

The importance of proper cover and concealment is repeatedly stressed by veterans. Don't cross open fields, they counsel, and avoid roads or well-traveled paths if possible. The easiest route may also be the quickest way to the hospital.

"Yesterday our party was moving ahead and we were led straight through an open field. There was a ridge ahead and the Germans were set up on it. One of our party was hit, but that was only part of it. It gave our position away and they pinned us down and tossed mortar and artillery shells at us from then on. It takes a little longer to go around and keep under cover, but you get further and you don't lose as many men."

The same first sergeant also advises:

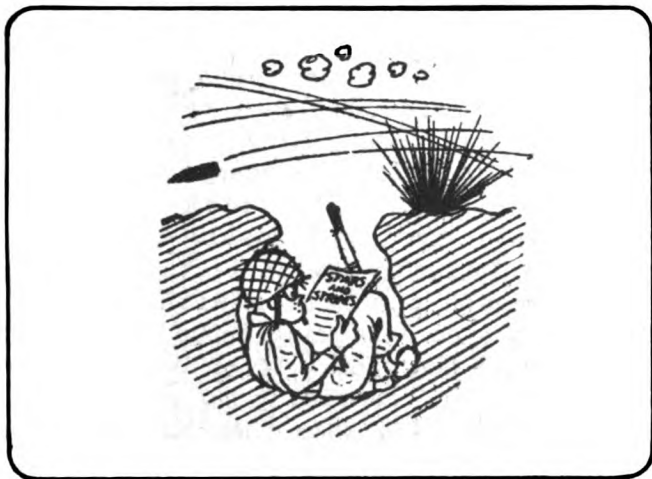
"Stay off the roads and keep off the traveled paths because it's nine out of ten that they have them covered with machine guns."

A staff sergeant: "The other day our platoon was moving across a field. For most of the way we used what cover we could find. Then, because

it was shorter, we cut across the corner. The Germans waited until twelve men were out in the open then they opened up with a machine gun."

DIG OR DIE: When you dig, veterans say, make it deep and cover the opening for protection against shell fragments.

"My hole was down about two and a half feet. A shell hit in the next hole to me. I got a wound in the arm, concussion and powder burns. If it'd been down a little more I wouldn't have gotten anything." (Pfc.)



"Reason I got hit I wasn't dug under. I was hit by an 88. Boards or wood on top of the hole will keep fragments out." (Pvt.)

"I was digging at the time. Before I'd been down about two feet...they started shelling before I got any more dug. The whole squad got it on this one." (Pvt.)

"Make sure you dig deep. Cover hole with anything to keep fragments off. Keep mouth open -- that helps from concussion." (Pfc.)

"When told to dig in, dig in plenty deep. It pays to dig."

KEEP QUIET: Veterans caution against giving away position by unnecessary noise or firing. They cite many wiles used by the enemy to provoke men into disclosing their location.

"Jerry sure is tricky," one private recalls, "he'll do anything in the world to get you to

show yourself so he can throw mortars at you."

"Men are continually giving away your position by the noises they make. Usually it's the new men, but sometimes the old men forget, too. When you hear men talking out loud at night you know it's new men. The new men are always fussing with their rifles, and you can hear the bolts clicking a long way off. When they take a drink the canteen cover slaps the side of the canteen with a bang." (Sgt.)

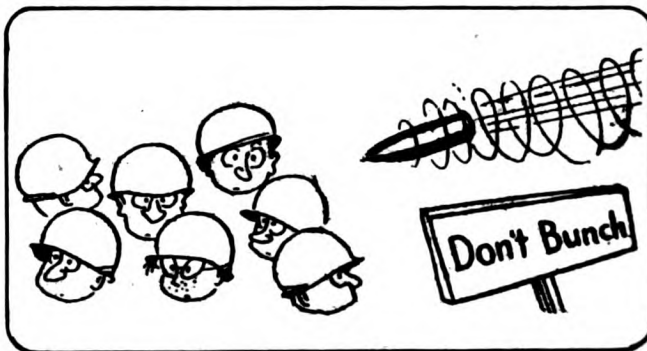
"When Germans counter-attacked they whoop and holler to make men fire and to cause panic and give positions away." (Pvt.)

"Some of the men in our company started a wood fire to cook their dinner. The smoke gave our position away and the enemy artillery shelled us all afternoon." (Sgt.)

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE: Despite the warning against bunching up which is drilled into the men so often during training, they are still guilty of this practice in combat. A battlefield is no place for a convention, veterans say.

"The new men...started back down the road in a bunch. An 88 zeroes down that road and when she let loose there were men and bodies flying all over the place." (Sgt.)

"Keep out of a bunch. The minute you bunch up they let you have it. Men bunch up for company. When you get into battle you just naturally want to get close -- but we learned the hard way -- don't bunch." (Pvt.)



"Three days ago we were on an attack and the shells started falling pretty thick and the men got excited and started bunching in one corner of the field. Then two machine guns opened up

and shot their legs full of bullets." (1st Sgt.)

"We wouldn't have been hit if we weren't bunched up -- all in a damn column -- couldn't help but get us all. Every time the enemy sees a whole bunch of men together they fire." (Pfc.)

BOOBY TRAPS:

Some men seem to be, born suckers for souvenirs, disregarding oft-repeated lectures on the German custom of booby-trapping likely objects of curiosity. Over-inquisitive Yanks given to collecting knick-knacks, in the opinion of veterans, are meat for the stretcher-bearers.



"One of the men in our company walked into an old barn a couple of days ago. He saw a ball on the bench and picked it up to see what it was. It went off and blew his fingers off. Men should be more careful what they pick up." (Pvt.)

"Do not pick up souvenirs, pistols, helmets, etc. One of the men in my outfit got his leg blown off because he tried to pick up a German helmet as a souvenir. The company commander advised the men not to nick up anything. Five of our men were killed on booby traps." (Pfc.)

PROTECT THE FLANKS:

Several interviews brought out the need for continual alertness to the hazard of flank attack.

"I was covering the squad advance, keeping the Germans' heads down. I was coming across the field. Then all of a sudden I was hit. The

rest of the platoon was covering us, but the MG was on our right flank. That flank should have been covered. You should always have flank protection when you have an open flank." (Pvt.)

"A squad advanced to a hedgerow and started to dig in. They didn't post any security on their flanks and everybody dug. The Germans set up a machine gun at the end of the hedgerow and killed every one of them." (S/Sgt.)

"Our guards weren't alert enough. In the morning there were six big German tanks facing us in the next field within a 120 yards of us." (Sgt.)

PRISONERS:

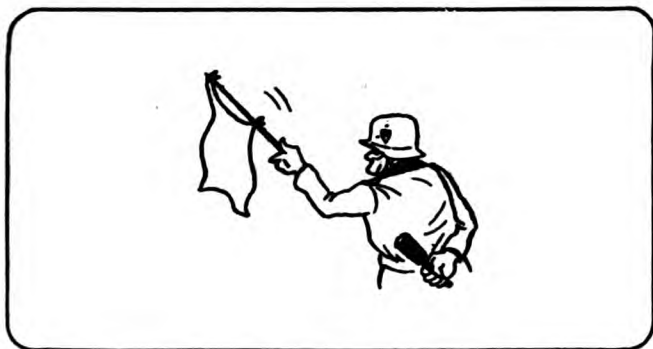
Men who have fought and captured German soldiers advise extreme wariness in handling prisoners. Many incidents are recounted in which the enemy used false surrender tactics to trick American troops into exposing themselves to enemy fire. A favorite device is to have one man approach a position with a white flag, while an attacking force slips unseen around the flank. Or an enemy group will march up apparently to surrender, only to open fire when they come within range, sometimes with automatic weapons strapped to their backs. A white flag should be regarded as a danger symbol, the veterans urge, and "Kamerad" is to be translated as "Watch out!"

"Be very careful in handling prisoners. They are valuable as sources of information, but watch them. Always make prisoners come to you. Never go to them. I made that mistake once. Never again. I've seen them come out with grenades and pistols hidden and then open up." (S/Sgt.)

"The platoon sergeant thought he was going to surrender so he motioned him to come on. He had his gun and fired and got the sergeant in the leg. That learned me something right there. Absolutely shoot if he has a gun, regardless of whether he looks like he's going to surrender or not. The only damn Jerry I'd let come towards me would have his hands over his head." (S/Sgt.)



"Never go to a prisoner, make him come to you. While you frisk him make sure he's covered." (Pfc.)



"There were three Germans coming down the draw and I thought they were going to surrender. I stood up and started motioning them up. Some one shot me with a rifle." (Sgt.)

Distrust of the enemy extends to civilians as well. Veterans caution against putting too much faith in apparently friendly civilians, letting them through the lines or careless conversation with them.

ENEMY WEAPONS: Informative comments were made by veterans on vaunted enemy weapons.

"A tank is more of a morale buster than anything and if a fellow knows where a tank can't operate he will think. The other day the boys saw this tank and ran and some of them are still running I guess, when they could have gone down the hill in the wooded area where they couldn't be touched."

"You can fight a tank even if you can't disable it. When a Jerry tank is hit he don't know what hit him and is going to get scared and may-be jump out. I've seen tanks, experienced men, too, when a mortar shell hit near it, they all jumped out and ran to the rear."

"Don't be afraid of half tracks with flame-throwers. It's only a harassing weapon -- if the men would fight it and not take off. If the ground or grass is damp or trees are wet it won't burn. Also remember that the guy behind it can't observe his fire -- it smokes so much."

"The Germans have a trick of firing overhead fire with one machine gun (tracer) and firing low grazing fire with another, ball ammunition. You try to crawl under the tracing fire and you get hit by the other which you can't see. Five of the men in our platoon were killed that way yesterday."

IF YOU'RE HIT: Combat veterans and company aid men agree that the cardinal rule of first aid is: *Keep calm, don't get excited.* Jumping around and shouting when wounded not only endangers your own life but divulges the position of your unit.

"I lost my buddy. He got too excited when he got hit and stood up. Then they shot him down. I tried to pull him down when he got up and they got me. When a man gets hit he should keep cool." (Cpl.)

"The shell burst right by me and I saw my hand was opened up...had wounds in my leg. I got excited like many others and began shouting for medics, which brought more shells over. Two fellows were killed by them." (Pvt.)

"The man next to me didn't even look to see how badly he was wounded. He just started yelling, 'Medics, Medics.' Others were calling too. The yelling drew a new burst of fire in our direction." (Sgt.)

"One fellow got hit and got excited and jumped out of his hole and got hit for good then." (Pvt.)

"Most new men get excited when hit. Often they jump up and run around like they were wild. Usually they think they are hurt worse than they actually are and that they are going to bleed to death. Actually they can pretty oftengive themselves about all the first aid they need if they will just keep calm and do it." (Aid man)

"Don't get excited. One example...He got hit and sits up and lies down and hollers. Pretty soon air gets in and he dies. That same day there's a Jerry with all his guts hanging out. He holds it in and didn't get excited and the son of a bitch still lives." (Aid man)

RADIO FAVORITES

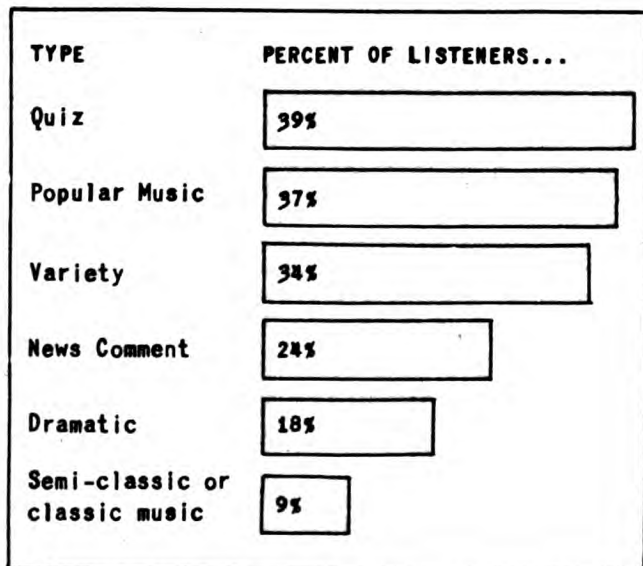
Source: Study of patients in enlisted men's wards of an Army general hospital in the U.S.

To a disabled soldier confined to a hospital bed, the radio is a comforting source of entertainment. With a mounting stream of men flowing into the wards of Army hospitals, the radio listening habits of patients take on new importance.

Knowledge of program preferences becomes especially helpful where headphones are not available and listening is thereby made almost compulsory.

The favorite forms of radio entertainment among hospital patients surveyed are quiz, popular music and variety programs. More than three out of five patients will tune in on a leading quiz show and the average listening audience for this type numbers almost two out of five.

The relative popularity of the various kinds of radio programs, as measured by the proportion of men who generally tune them in, is illustrated in the chart below:



GI INSURANCE

Source: Survey of a cross-section of white enlisted men in the United States.

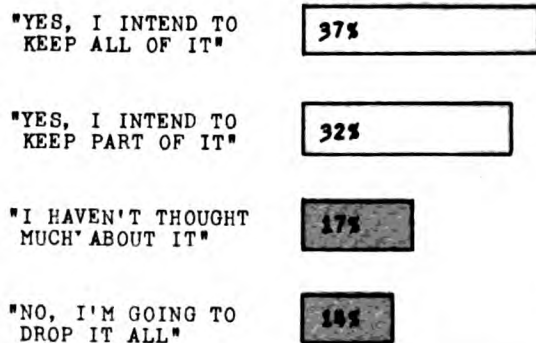
If the percentage of satisfied "customers" is any indication, the National Service Life Insurance program is an overwhelming success. Almost to a man the holders of these policies feel that they are carrying just the right amount of insurance or that they would want to take even more GI coverage. Less than one man in ten thinks he is holding too much protection.

Another sign of widespread approval of the Army's insurance plan is the favorable reaction to it as a form of post-war coverage. About seven out of ten men say they will keep all or part of their N.S.L.I. after separation from the service. Hardly one man in seven plans to drop all his GI insurance upon leaving the Army.

Only about one man in three knew for certain that a copy of the application and a certificate of insurance had been issued by the government in connection with his policy.

QUESTION: "Have you thought about keeping your government insurance up after you get out of the Army?"

Percent saying...



DO MEN KNOW ABOUT THE GI BILL OF RIGHTS?

The facts on veterans' benefits are not clearly understood, a brief quiz indicates

Source: Survey among selected samples of enlisted men stationed in Zone of Interior camps.

Servicemen returning to civilian life will be eligible for a wide group of benefits under the law which has come to be known as the "GI Bill of Rights." A general understanding of this program would obviously prove helpful in taking fullest advantage of its provisions.

Several months after passage of the GI Bill, however, the men for whose welfare it was framed had only a meager knowledge of its main features. Less than one enlisted man out of five in the States even claimed to have adequate information on this subject.

RESULTS OF QUIZ

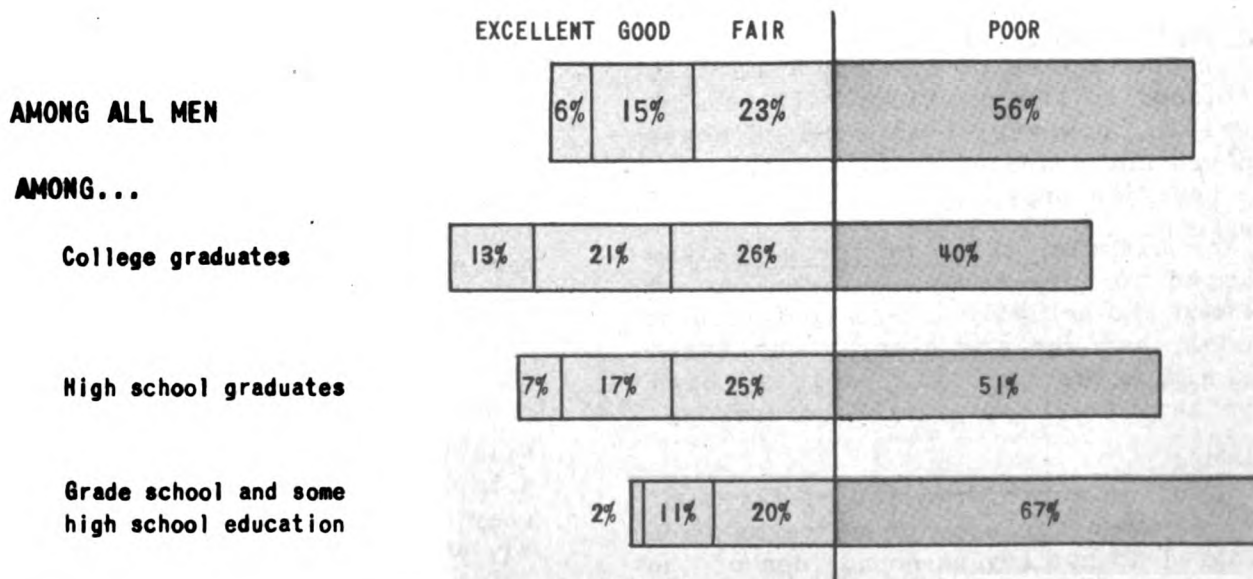
To test the level of knowledge on veterans' rights, men were asked a series

of six simple questions. Only six men in 100 were able to answer all these questions correctly, while less than half the men knew four correct answers--the minimum number which can be taken to represent even a fair understanding of the bill.

More than half these men did not know that they would be entitled to assistance in going to college even if they were out of high school for as long as six years.

As familiarity with this law spreads, it will have an increasing effect on soldiers' postwar plans. The man who is now wondering about whether or not he will be able to attend school, go into business for himself or buy his own home after the war will find that he has a close, personal stake in the GI Bill of Rights.

PERCENT OF MEN WHOSE KNOWLEDGE OF GI BILL WAS...



As might be expected, wide differences in the results of this quiz were noted among men with various educational backgrounds. College graduates proved to have a far more accurate fund of information about these benefits than other soldiers, indicating the need for acquainting men with little schooling with their rights under the bill.

QUESTION: "How well do you think you know what help the GI Bill provides for veterans?"

Percent who say...

"KNOW MAIN PROVISIONS QUITE WELL"

19%

"KNOW A LITTLE BUT NOT MUCH"

49%

"KNOW VERY LITTLE"

38%

IS APATHY RESPONSIBLE?

The informational gaps revealed by the brief "exam" used in this survey may be explained in part by indifference on the part of many men who do not plan to avail themselves of the opportunities mentioned in the questions. It is also possible, however, that some of these men are not aware of being eligible for the benefits provided.

For example, three of the questions related to post-war education. Among the men who actually intend to return to school, and who are clearly qualified for aid under the bill, only a third were able to check all the correct answers.

In other words, two out of three of the very men for whom these terms were designed do not have a sound idea of the financial help open to them.

HOW MANY OF THESE QUESTIONS CAN YOUR MEN ANSWER?

QUESTION AND ANSWER

PERCENT
ANSWERING
CORRECTLY

- Q. Can a man who was 24 when he came into the Army and had been out of high school for six years get help to go to college after the war?
- A. Yes. 47%
- Q. The maximum aid for cost of tuition and fees provided by the G.I. Bill of Rights is--
- A. \$500 per year. 52%
- Q. What will be the amount of money allowed to single men for room and board while attending school?
- A. \$50 per month. 57%
- Q. For which of the following purposes will the government guarantee loans to veterans?
- Buying a car
Buying or building home
Medical expenses when having children
Buying civilian clothes
- A. Buying or building a home. 55%
- Q. What is the largest amount of loan that the Federal government will guarantee?
- A. \$2000. 55%
- Q. Will veterans be able to get unemployment pay benefits if they can't get jobs right away after they leave the Army?
- A. Yes, all veterans. 54%

HOW THE STUDIES ARE MADE

The articles in this bulletin are based on attitude surveys conducted by the Research Branch, Information and Education Division, and the research units reporting to the commanding generals of the several theaters.

The staff of the Research Branch is composed of Army officers who are experienced in the field of surveys, together with a number of civilian specialists. Techniques have been developed, tested and adjusted to fit the Army's problems.

The basic steps in conducting a study are as follows:

1. The questionnaire is prepared in consultation with the War Department branches, or the theater command immediately concerned. Questions are carefully chosen to provide the exact type of information desired.
2. The questionnaire is pre-tested. That is, the questions are tried out on small groups of men to determine whether they are meaningful and understandable to the type of men or officers to be studied.
3. The project is cleared for action with the commands in which the study is to be made.
4. The number of men to be surveyed is set sufficiently large to insure statistically reliable findings.
5. The men to be surveyed are selected to insure as true a cross section of the group to be studied as possible. A cross section of enlisted men in the United States, for example, is so drawn as to give proper proportionate representation to each branch of the Army, to men in each stage of training, and to men stationed in the various sections of the country. It is, of course, possible to get cross sections of a single branch, of a division, of Negro troops, or any other portion of the Army desired.
6. The men complete questionnaires under conditions of absolute anonymity. They are assembled in small groups, and hear a short introduction given by a specially trained class leader. This introduction makes it clear to the men that only their frank opinion is wanted, and that they are not being tested or spied on. If the group is composed of enlisted men, the class leader is an enlisted man, and no officers are present during the session. No names or serial numbers are placed on the questionnaires. Ordinarily, illiterates or men of very low intelligence are interviewed by specially trained enlisted men.
7. The data are analyzed by specialists in attitude research analysis. Reports of these analysts are released to agencies concerned, and also form the basis for the material presented in this bulletin.

The procedure outlined above is that followed in the typical cross section survey. Other techniques, of course, are employed from time to time in special situations.